

3-18-88

Irving Pearce
Proprietor



Rev J. H. Stephan
March 18th 1888
Sherman
House

Chicago, March 18th 1888

Dear Miss Kate,

I received your dear and expected letter of the 13 inst. yester-day and also the plans & specifications. Bishop Marty fell and broke his arm. He requested me by telegrams & letter to come to see him. I left therefore Chicago for Jancton Thursday evening last, intending to return here by Monday for business, but got only 70 miles out, when a severe shock of rheumatism disabled me to proceed any farther, and after a days rest I returned to Chicago. I feel better now. The whole trouble was caused by over work. I had to see to every thing: contract for St. Josephs, buying farming imple-ments and house-hold goods for Rev. J. J. who was very slow and wanted to see to little things as buy-ing some goats, sheep, chickens etc. instead of going straight ahead to attend to the most urgent business; and when I left Chicago I was sweating, weak & exhausted. Now to your inquiries: 1. The deaf & dumb boy is all right

His illness

2. I have ordered made at once a wooden coffin, stone pedestal for the grave of Sister Th^e Wilhelmina O.S.B. To be shipped to Highmore as soon as the body arrives from New York. The freight rates are down to nearly nothing on account of the R.R. fights in cutting rates.
3. no plans were sent to Very Rev. Ignace O.S.B. for Purcell only what Rev. Willard left him last year. Let him send an estimate and then we will instruct him and substitute the proper plan you speak of.
4. Please let Mr. Burns make out his estimate & specification for a brick building at St. Josephs and a stone basement 8 feet high, which will answer for cellars, wash houses, laundry etc. and give us a great deal of additional room without much cost. The stones we can get within 4 miles of the place; N^e one sandstone. The whole building in brick and stone basement will not exceed the cost of \$18000. complete. The contractor will give us the best of security for the punctual fulfillment of his contract. Mr. Burns shall especially calculate about the thickness of the brick & stone walls. — The frost does not go deeper there as at Philadelphia. This is the basis of his calculations. —
5. I thank You from the bottom of my heart for the holy Communion You promised to offer up for me on St. Josephs day. I shall offer my maps for your dear Uncle Joe for his journey home! Something urges me to hurry back; what it is, I do not know yet. I will do so as soon as possible and will call at once on you. —

Please remember me to Your good Sisters and believe me to be, very gratefully Yours in the

Sacred Hearts of
Jesus, Mary & Joseph,
J. A. Stephan.